

# Washington State Animal Response Team

*"Helping Animals and their Owners in Disasters"*

## WASART NEWS



### From the President

In our recent meetings and training classes, we've tried to emphasize that people don't have to be experienced horse handlers, skilled at handling dogs or cats, or experts at rigging for rope rescue in order to make a valuable contribution to helping animals in need and furthering WASART's mission. We've restructured our Training Curriculum to provide people with the knowledge they need to deploy with us earlier, to do the many critical jobs necessary to support the actual animal handling activities and make the deployment a success. Those who also want to get their hands on the animals can move on to take our Emergency Sheltering and Field Response courses, where they'll get the opportunity to handle all kinds of live critters. There are few training courses out there that offer the same opportunity to handle a variety of animals as ours. Our Training Director, **Cathy Reaney**, can be reached at [training@washingtonsart.org](mailto:training@washingtonsart.org) if more information on our revised training curriculum is desired. Or visit our website to review the training curriculum posted under the 'Training' tab.

### March 2012 American Red Cross Month



### Mission Statement

To help animals and their owners through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.

In addition to participating in support activities during actual deployments, we have a variety of other jobs that need to be done to keep WASART functioning. Keeping our rescue gear and other equipment clean, maintained and in order and ready to go is vitally important. We need help with, and new ideas for, fund-raising. We need people to help with public outreach to tell WASART's story – we regularly have to turn down invitations to community events because we don't have people available to staff them. One particular position that needs filling is that of Chair of our Hospitality Committee. This is the person who provides all the wonderful snacks and edible items at our General Membership Meetings, trainings, and graduations. Read more about this opportunity later in this newsletter. If you'd like more information on how to join WASART and the 'jobs' you'd be interested in filling, contact The Chair of our Membership Committee at [membership@washingtonsart.org](mailto:membership@washingtonsart.org).

Finally, I'm happy to report that we have added four new folks to our leadership ranks: the Board of Directors, after receiving input from WASART's Operations Leaders, has appointed **Pat Conaway, Zoe Clelland, Jason King** and **Lauri McBeath-Davies** as new Team Leaders. They were selected for their leadership qualities, demonstrated skills and knowledge, and we're fortunate to have them in their new leadership roles.

Bill Daugaard  
President

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## Core Training—March 10-11, 2012

The newly revised annual two-day Core training was successfully conducted on March 10-11, 2012 at wonderful facilities generously provided by the Redmond Fire Department in Redmond, WA. The new training format now allows WASART volunteers, who have also completed their Mandatory Independent Study



Requirements, to deploy with the Field Response and Technical Rescue Teams and to participate in a support or auxiliary capacity but without any animal handling involvement. The 15 hour course was taught by WASART senior members as well as Captain Robert Torrey of the Redmond Fire Department (Basic Fire Safety) and Ms. Laura Dahlstrom of the City of Everett Emergency Management Department (Disaster Psychology). The 13 attendees learned about Communications, Volunteer Involvement, Base Camp Support/Incident Command System, Biosecurity, Legalities, Trailer and Transport Support, etc. WASART welcomes them all and looks forward to utilizing their new skills at upcoming deployments.

## CERT Training, February 25, 2012

At the invitation of the Redmond Office of Emergency Management and CERT instructor, Janeen Olson, members of WASART's Training Committee



presented the CERT Animal Response I and II modules to 17 Redmond-area CERT students. The presentation covered topics including basic disaster preparedness for animal owners, dog and cat body language, and basic cat and dog handling. WASART members also used a stuffed dog to demonstrate use of a catch pole and improvisation of an emergency muzzle. The WASART members in attendance were **Carol Satre, Amy Adams, Bill Daugaard, Cathy Reaney (Training Director), and Jason King (Deputy Training Director)**.



## General Membership Meeting, March 14, 2012

A large turnout of WASART members from north of Seattle reinforced the Board of Directors' decision to host at least one of its quarterly General Membership meetings in a location other than Enumclaw. The March 14th meeting was held at the Shoreline Fire Department on Aurora Avenue, Shoreline and attended by over 20 members.



*(Continued on page 3)*



The first hour was devoted to WASART 'business' and then followed by a mini-training session on animal rigging and knots practice.

Members practiced trying a variety of knots such as the alpine butterfly, double fisherman's, water knot, prusik knot, clove hitch, double overhand stopper knot, and others. Jazz, a Katrina rescue, was an unenthusiastic 'volunteer' in the process but Tony the Pony endured his manhandling with grace and composure.



The June 13th and December 12th meetings will be held in Enumclaw as Graduation ceremonies for WASART graduates are held on those dates but the September 12th meeting is scheduled for Tacoma, WA at the American Red Cross Mount Rainier Chapter headquarters. Visit the WASART website, calendar or Facebook for more information on these meetings.

### Cascade Kennels' Generosity



If you're going on deployment but not sure what to do with your fuzzy family, Cascade Kennels of Woodinville has generously offered WASART members discounts on their services. For members on deployment, the discount is 50% off. New WASART customers get one night free and existing WASART customers get 10% off boarding. The deployment discount does not apply during the holidays but the other two discounts do. WASART members **Michaela Eaves** and **Terry Garcia** toured the facility and reported it to be well maintained and very well managed. It was clean, modern, and definitely a place they'd board their dogs. WASART gratefully thanks Larry Landin and Cascade Kennels for this generous offer. The peace of mind in knowing your buddy is taken good care of while you are taking care of the less fortunate is priceless. For more information on Cascade Kennels, visit their website at [www.cascadekennels.com](http://www.cascadekennels.com).

### WASART 'Job' Opening



And we now have an immediate and critical need for someone to step up to take on a very important role for us: we need a new Chair for our Hospitality Committee. **Lanette Knapp**, who has been our Hospitality Chair since WASART's earliest days, has decided that it's time for her to move on to a new role. She has taken on the job of Animal Wrangler for our Training Committee. In that position, she'll be responsible for rounding up the variety of critters we use in our training classes and our annual Mock Shelter event. We're delighted to have her in this

key role, but her departure as Hospitality Chair leaves a very important hole in our staff. The Hospitality role is essential to organize and provide the refreshments for our training classes and General Meetings. Those of you who've taken our classes know how welcome and important that role is. So if you like to meet people and work with a great team, please consider volunteering to take on this essential job. Please get in touch with Gretchen McCallum at [membership@washingtonsart.org](mailto:membership@washingtonsart.org) to help us out of this dilemma!





To qualify as charitable deductions, the expenses in question must further the groups' missions, such as foster care for stray animals.

What follows is a summary of the many possibilities.



### **Only Out-of-Pocket Outlays Count**

The law allows volunteers to claim itemized deductions on Schedule A of Form 1040 only for what you spend to cover unreimbursed expenses—for instance, telephone calls, postage stamps and stationery, as well as other materials (say, to prepare posters or other forms of advertising for fund-raising campaigns).

What kinds of expenses can rescue workers write off at tax time? Some examples of qualifying outlays that are frequently overlooked: animal feed, medicines, cat litter, litter boxes, pet dishes, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, paper towels, laundry detergent and dish detergent; animal bedding, animal toys, fees paid to veterinarians and trainers, and food for volunteers building temporary shelters for pets evacuated from flood zones in hurricanes.

### **Uniforms**

Some organizations require volunteers to wear uniforms. Because these uniforms aren't adaptable to ordinary wear, deductions are allowed for their cost and cleaning.

### **Travel**

An often missed outlay begins the moment that you leave your home. Your allowable deductions include travel expenses to and from animal shelters, veterinarians, committee meetings, fundraising events, and so on. If you travel to and from your volunteer work by planes, trains, buses, or taxis, just make sure to keep track of your fares and claim them as travel expenses.

If you use your own auto, you have two options for handling the expenses: The first option is to deduct the actual cost of gas and oil. Unlike write-offs for business driving, you can't claim depreciation because that isn't an actual cash payment. Nor can you claim insurance and repairs unless you use the car only for charitable driving or the repairs are directly attributable to that use.

The second option is to make the paperwork simpler by claiming a standard mileage rate. The standard rate is 14 cents a mile for tax year 2011, unchanged since 1997, as set by law.

Whether you use the mileage allowance or drive a gas guzzler and claim actual costs, remember to deduct parking fees and bridge or highway tolls, as well. It's a good idea, in case an IRS examiner questions your charitable travel, to be able to support your deductions with a glove compartment diary in which you record why and how far you went, as well as what you spend on parking. You don't have to use the same car each time and can use more than one car at the same time. If you rent an auto and drive it only for charitable travel, include the entire rental charge with your other charitable expenses.

### **Overnight Expenses**

When volunteer work requires that you be away from home overnight, your deductions also include lodgings and meals as long as they're "reasonable," as opposed to "lavish or extravagant." Note that these meals are 100 percent deductible, unlike business meals, which are only 50 percent deductible.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## IRS Paperwork

Strict rules apply when a volunteer incurs an unreimbursed expense of \$250 or more, such as an airline ticket. No deduction for the outlay is permitted unless you obtain and keep for your records a written statement from the charity. The statement needs to describe the type of services you performed for the charity and whether you received any benefits in return. The charity needn't list the expenses you pay as a volunteer.

## Help from the IRS

For more information, take a look at [IRS Publication 526, Charitable Contributions](#), or telephone 800-TAX-FORM.

Excerpted from article written by Julian Block, attorney, for Pet News and Views

### Upcoming Events

On **March 31, 2012**, the Everett Emergency Operations Center will host a free **Formidable Footprint Earthquake Exercise**, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. This will be an on-line exercise and participants will be joining hundreds of others across the country. The scenario this time will be an earthquake; previous exercises have focused on pandemic flu, etc. You must RSVP to [everetteoc@ci.everett.wa.us](mailto:everetteoc@ci.everett.wa.us) by March 20th to register and to obtain further instructions for the next step.



The Washington State Department of Health will offer two free one-day workshops on **zoonotic and vector-borne diseases**. They will be held at the Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake on **April 11, 2012** and at the Labor & Industries Auditorium in Tumwater on **April 13, 2012**. Topics include the new rabies rule, zoonotic disease associated with poultry, pet and wild birds, tick surveillance, and more. To register or for more information, email [zd@doh.wa.gov](mailto:zd@doh.wa.gov).

A two-day workshop on **Field Traumatology**—on scene disaster mental health interventions—is scheduled for **April 19-20, 2012** in Lakewood, WA. A second one-day class entitled **Compassion Fatigue**—the Cost of Caring—will be held on **April 21, 2012**, also in Lakewood, WA. Both courses are offered by the Green Cross Academy of Traumatology and will be taught by Dr. Dan Casey, and Mary Schoenfeldt of the Everett Office of Emergency Management. CEUs are also available. Please email [info@greencross.org](mailto:info@greencross.org) to register or for more information. Space is limited and slots fill up quickly. Visit [www.greencross.org](http://www.greencross.org) for updated news.



The annual **Field Response Course** taught by WASART instructors will be held on **April 28-29, 2012** at the Sunset Lake Camp, Wilkeson, WA. Hands-on animal handling is part of the course. The tuition cost is \$85.00 for WASART members and \$110.00 for the general public. Overnight accommodation in rustic cabins or tents/RVs as well as meals will be available at an additional cost. Learn about technical rescue techniques, animal assessment, site and situation assessment, water rescue awareness, etc. For more information, contact [training@washingtonsart.org](mailto:training@washingtonsart.org) or download the registration form from the WASART website and pay via PayPal. Registration deadline is **April 18th** and a minimum of 10 pre-paid registrants is required for the course to go forward.